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A
LETTER
TO A
Noble Lord,
Concerning the Late
EXPEDITION
TO
CANADA.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *A. Baldwin*, near the Oxford-
Arms in *Warwick-Lane.* 1712.

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Printed for A. Baskin, near the Office
of the Admiralty, in Warwick-Lane. 1752.

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My LORD,

YOUR Lordship demands of me Satisfaction in three Points, referring to the late unfortunate Expedition to *Canada*.

I. Of what Importance the Conquest of that Country would have been to the Crown, and whether it would have answer'd the Expence of the great Armament that was made against it.

II. Whether the Expedition was well concerted? And,

Lastly, If the ill Success of it ought wholly to be charg'd on *New-England*, as People here are made to believe.

The first of these Questions, *as to the Importance of the Conquest*, has been discuss'd in a Pamphlet publish'd within these few Days, but so imperfectly, that I have room left to give your Lordship the following Account.

Canada then is a poor Country, and in itself little valuable: Its Situation between forty seven and fifty Degrees of North Latitude,

and its being subject to Winds that blow from vast Lakes above a thousand Leagues westerly make it extremely cold and barren. The Ice locks up the Rivers, and the Snow covers the Ground more than half the Year, in which time consequently very little Business or Commerce can go on. Yet this Severity of the Climate would render it more serviceable to *Great Britain*, than if it were under a temperate Meridian. For where the Cold is so extreme, and the Snow lies so long on the Ground Sheep will hardly live, but never thrive so as to make the Woollen Manufactures practicable, which is the only thing that can make a Plantation unprofitable to the Crown. And as *Canada* (had it been reduc'd) must have been furnish'd from hence with Manufactures for its own Inhabitants, so it would have been a convenient Mart to vend 'em to the numerous and populous *Indian* Nations round about 'em; with whom the People of *Canada* now maintain a great Traffick, and in Exchange for their *European* Commodities, receive the Skins of Beavers, Elks, Otters, Deer, Bears, Foxes, wild Cats, and other Creatures, with which the Woods of North *America* abound.

This Trade therefore would without doubt have made great Returns of Profit to the Nation, had the Expedition prosper'd; and yet I must tell you this was not the only, nor the main thing that mov'd Her Majesty to

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to enter upon it. Her Majesties principal View (as she was pleas'd to declare in Her Royal Instructions to the several Governours of the Continent) was to make Her good Subjects in that Part of the World easy and happy, which they can never be whilst the *French* are Masters of *Canada*.

The Situation of that Country gives the People an Opportunity to invade all the *British* Colonies when-ever they please. The River of *St. Lawrence* lies right opposite to *New-Foundland*, and the *French* Settlement is at the Head of it, from whence it stretches along westerly on the Back-side of *New-Hampshire*, the *Massachusetts*, *Rhode-Island*, *Connecticut*, *New-York*, *Albany*, the *Jerseys*, *Pensilvania*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia*. And as the *French* are on the back of us, so the *Indians* are behind them, who with their united Force often fall on the *English*, and may be able in time (if not extirpated) to drive 'em into the Sea.

The Ravages which they have continually committed on the Frontiers of *New-England*, their firing whole Towns and Villages, their butchering the People in cold Blood, and their unmanly Cruelties to the Women and Children is too sad, and too long a Story to be here related. I believe your Lordship never met with any thing like it in History, unless you have seen the Account which *Bartholomeo de las Casas* Bishop of *Chiapa* in *New-Spain*, has

has given the World of the *Spanish* Barbarities to the poor *Indians* of *Peru* and *Mexico*. But tho' *New-England* has been the deepest Sufferer, yet the other Colonies and Factories have been far from escaping.

The *Hudson's Bay* Company will tell you they have had their full Share. In 1682, one Monsieur *de La Chaney* with some other Merchants of *Canada* equip'd several Ships of Force, and enter'd the Company's Factory at Port *Nelson*, burnt their Houses, and carried away their Effects to the Value of 25000 *l*. In 1684, they made a second Invasion, and plunder'd to the Amount of 10000 *l*. In 1686, Monsieur *De Troy* came by Land from *Canada* with a considerable Force, and took three of the Company's Factories at the Bottom of the Bay, murder'd some of the People, and inhumanely turn'd the rest to Sea in a rotten Bark with little Provision, so that most of 'em perish'd. (This was in full Peace, but a Cruelty scarce us'd in the fiercest War. And this cost the Company 50000 *l*. In 1694, Monsieur *De Iberville* from *Canada* assaulted *York Fort*, took it, and carry'd off 20000 *l*. And the very last Month we had News, that the Governour of *Canada* had sent a Party of Men to attack the Factory now there, but were bravely repuls'd. The whole which that Company has suffer'd from *Canada* is (as they have represented in several Memorials to the Government) upwards of Two Hun-

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Hundred Thousand Pounds.

New-Foundland too has felt many Storms from this Quarter. It was twice invaded from thence and destroy'd about sixteen or twenty Years ago. And not long since in the Year 1703, Monsieur *Subercass* march'd from *Placentia* at the Head of 600 Men (most of 'em *Canadians*) and besieg'd Fort *William* in *New-Foundland* for five Weeks; but Captain *Moody* who commanded the Fort, did with 45 Men make a brave Defence, and oblige him to retire; but the Fort from its bad Situation being no way able to protect the Town of *St. John's*, the Enemy burnt it as they went off, and the Damage which the Country then suffer'd was computed to be upwards of *Eighty Thousand Pounds Sterling*. About the latter end of the next Year 1705, when Major *Lloyd* commanded the Fort, *Canada* made a second Attempt with Success; they took both the Fort and Castle, which with the Town they laid in Ashes, and carry'd away the Garrison Prisoners (or rather Slaves) to *Quebeck*. The Loss which *New-Foundland* sustain'd by this second Misfortune was computed to be above a *hundred and fifty thousand Pounds Sterling*, not reckoning the Fort and Castle which were demolish'd, nor 48 Pieces of Cannon, and great Quantities of Ammunition, and Stores of War of all sorts, which the Enemy carry'd off. Nor did this Booty content

tent 'em, but they laid the Inhabitants under Contribution obliging 'em to pay twenty thousand Pounds for Leave to stay there : One Harbour paid 7000*l.* in Bills of Exchange the last Year. So that I may venture to say the Money and Effects which the *French* have had from *New-Foundland* have amounted to more than the Expence which the King of *France* is at to maintain his Garrisons in *Placentia* and *Canada*.

If your Lordship should enquire how it comes to pass, that a handful of People (comparatively) should have the Forts of *New-Foundland*, and *Hudson's Bay* thus at their Mercy, and be able besides to alarm and distress so many Colonies on the Continent; I answer, 'Tis by Assistance of the *Indian Nations*, who are blindly bigotted to their Superstitions, and therefore entirely devoted to their Interest; which the *French* daily strengthen partly by marrying among 'em, and so accustoming themselves to their wild Manner of Life; but principally by having their Missionaries ever with 'em, who teach 'em among other things that the *Virgin Mary* was a *French Lady*, and that her Son the Saviour of the World was crucify'd by the *English*, and therefore to destroy 'em is highly meritorious : Add then a Zeal for a false and bloody Religion to the natural Fierceness of the Savages, and what Wickedness is so big, which they won't grasp, or Violence so great which

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which they won't commit? And they have one insuperable Advantage of their side as they live in a vast Wilderness, and are therefore themselves inaccessible, but can fall upon the English Towns whenever they please. For which reason there's no disarming them but by extirpating the *French*, who both supply 'em with Arms and Ammunition, and pay 'em for all the Mischief they do.

Thus, My LORD, You see what a restless and fatal Enemy *Canada* is to *North America*, what Murders and Depredations she commits on her quiet Neighbours as well in Peace as in War. We hop'd the time was now come when we were to have made Reprisals; but Heaven has thought fit to disappoint us, and we must be resign'd. However I'm sure it was worthy of Her Majesty's Justice and Goodness to do Her part to disperse this *Band of Robbers*, and to reduce a Place which has been the Source of so many Evils to Her good *American* Subjects. For my part I'm both sorry and asham'd to hear some People lessen the Design, nay treat it with open Contempt by saying *it was of no moment in the World*; and *that seeing so many Men have been lost, and so much Money spent about it, they hope somebody will be made to pay the Reckoning*. These Gentlemen must excuse me, if I say that these rash and intemperate Words proceed partly from their Ignorance, but perhaps chiefly from a settled Resolution not to like

any thing the present Ministry does. Tho' they might know (if they pleas'd) that the *Late* Ministry came as heartily into it as *this*, and that in their Administration a Fleet under Vice Admiral *Baker* with Troops on board commanded by My Lord *Shannon* bound on this Enterprize lay some Months at *Portsmouth*, and had proceeded on it, if the Wind had favour'd before the Season was too far advanc'd. But as then the Tories reproach'd it for being the Projection of that Ministry, so the other side for a contrary Reason do unadvisedly exclaim against it now.

✍ In sum then to the first Question; Of *what Importance would the Conquest of Canada be to the Crown?* I demand of Your Lordship, Would the annexing a large Country extending above a thousand Leagues towards the *Mississippi*, and the Consequence of this, namely a vast Fur-Trade, and an Exportation of our Woollen Manufactures, and other *European* Commodities for the Supply of all that Territory and the adjacent *Indians*, would this be of any Importance? Or would the Security of the Factories of *Hudson's Bay*, and Eleven flourishing British Colonies on the Continent, be of any moment? Or Lastly, Is *Newfoundland* and the Fishery worth keeping, which gains out of the Sea such immense Riches, is so great a Nursery for Sailors, employs so many Ships, and makes large Returns home by *Spain*, *Portugal*, and the *Straits* in Pieces

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Pieces of Eight and Bills of Exchange; I say is this Fishery (which the Present Lord Treasurer in one of his last Speeches in the House of Commons call'd the *Silver-Mine*) worth preserving? Why then truly if any one of these Articles be of Value, it cannot be deny'd that the Expedition was well grounded. But now if *each* of these Points be of high Concern, and the Reduction of *Canada* would answer and secure 'em all, then it must be own'd to be a truly Great and Noble Design.

The next thing Your Lordship desires Satisfaction in, is *Whether the Expedition was well concerted*. To which I doubt not to answer, It was. The Troops employ'd in this Service were good, and for Number more than enough, which was certainly a right measure. For it's good to be always sure, especially in Affairs, where if we fail once we may never have an Opportunity to make a second Attempt. Besides a little Superiority is necessary in case of Accidents, to which no Remedy can be apply'd at so great a Distance, as the Scene of this Action was to be. And as there was a superiour Land-Force, so there were 14 brave Men of War, a fine Train of Artillery, and all Stores of War in such a Quantity, that so well appointed a Fleet and Army was never before seen in that part of the World, and probably never will again. Then they were dispatch'd early, and Colonel *Nicholson* sent before to get every thing

ready; for altho' (as I shall afterwards observe) they might have gone up the River of *St. Lawrence* in *September*, yet it's good to take Time by the Foretop, and to be rather too early than too late. In the next place, Colonel *Nicholson's* marching by Land with a good Body of *English* and *Indians* to attack *Mont Real*, and thereby make a considerable Diversion was well laid. And all this carried on with that Secrecy, that even the Lords of the Admiralty who appointed the Fleet did not know the Service for which it was design'd. But the wisest Ministry can't preface Events, nor provide against all Casualties and Emergencies which often blast the fairest Enterprizes, and have actually defeated this, from which we expected to reap so much Glory and Advantage. Which introduces the last Article, *viz.*

Whether the unfortunate Miscarriage of this Expedition is to be imputed to the Government and People of New-England?

I am not ignorant, My LORD, of what is given out, that after *New-England* had made earnest and repeated Applications to the Throne for this Expedition, and Her Majesty had graciously come into it, at a time too when She had the most pressing Occasions for Her Men and Money in *Flanders*, *Spain*, and *Portugal*, that yet notwithstanding the Country did every thing in their Power to defeat the Success of it, and that the Misfortune is to be wholly

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wholly attributed to the barbarous Treatment of the Northern Colonies. Nor am I unacquainted with the severe Menaces which some People use against 'em on this Occasion, which yet I'll allow are just, and ought to be strictly executed, if this Charge or any part of it be true. But let us consider this Matter soberly.

I have often heard it said, *That Men may lie, but Interest will not.* And if I know any thing of Mankind, this is a Rule that never fails. Now that the Reduction of *Canada* is of the last Consequence to *New-England* can't be doubted from what has been already said, unless one can believe, that the People there don't like to live in Peace and Security as well as the rest of the World. I am sure it has been the Cry of the whole Country ever since *Canada* was deliver'd up to the *French*, *Canada est delenda.* They always look'd upon it as a *Carthage* to the Northern Colonies, which if they did not destroy, would in time destroy them.

Of this they were so apprehensive in the Year 1690, that they came unanimously into a great and expensive Undertaking against it under Command of Sir *William Phips*. But meeting with an unaccountable Train of Disappointments, return'd without doing any thing. This Enterprize cost the single Province of the *Massachusetts* about fifty thousand Pounds, which together with the Loss of

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Abundance of their young *chosen Men* by a malignant Fever that reign'd in the Camp, and several Disasters that happen'd in their way home, gave that Province so deep a Wound, that it did not recover it self in many Years after.

However about five Years ago, observing their *French Neighbours* to encrease and grow more and more formidable every Day, they resolv'd to make 'em another Visit ; but not thinking themselves strong enough to deal with *Canada*, they were content to make only an Attempt on *Port-Royal*, which was accordingly done, but most unhappily miscarry'd.

Yet far from being dishearten'd by these Misfortunes, when her Majesty about three Years after signified to that and the other Governments concern'd her gracious Intentions to reduce *Canada*, and desir'd 'em to get ready their Quota, it can't be express'd with what Chearfulness they came into it : They rais'd their Men immediately, cloath'd 'em handsomely, and disciplin'd 'em for the Service, and had laid up Magazines of Provision both for their own and the Queen's Troops then shortly expected ; And tho' the Court altering their Measures did not proceed in the Design, yet the Colonies and particularly *New-England* were at near the same Charge as if they had. Well, the next Year they rais'd a Body of Troops again, which

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commanded by Col. *Nicholson*, and join'd by 500 Auxiliaries from hence, made another Attack on *Port-Royal* and carry'd it, as every body knows. Thus that poor Country exhausted by many expensive and (all but one) fruitless Enterprizes, besides the Oppression of a twenty Years *French* and *Indian* War that has lain heavy upon 'em, yet did this Summer past furnish more than the Quota assign'd 'em for this last fatal Expedition, and advanced at the same time a great Sum for her Majesty's Forces, which it is not doubted the Justice of the Government will order soon to be paid, or else the People there are utterly ruin'd.

I shall only add one thing more, that over and above these extraordinary Articles, the standing yearly Charge of the Province of the *Massachusetts* to maintain their *Barrier* against the Enemy is thirty thousand Pounds *Communibus Annis*, which they would be eas'd of if *Canada* were taken.

And now after all this to suggest, that the Country was not in good earnest to promote the Expedition, but obstructed it all they could, must appear to every body as absurd as false. But they tell you, *The Boston Merchants found their Account in a clandestine Trade with the French, and no wonder if they would not have the Seat of their Commerce broke up.* And thus the great Secret is out, and the true Reason (as you are to believe) why the Wheels mov'd
so

so heavily. Well! Suppose this to be Fact, what's this to the General Assembly who had the Conduct of the Expedition? Would they (do you think) forfeit their Honour with her Majesty, and betray their dear native Land, only to gratify a few smuggling Traders? But the best on't is, there's no Truth in this Allegation: The *Boston* Merchants have more Honour and Conscience and Love to their Country, (whatever some People may say of 'em here, judging them I suppose by themselves) than to engage in so criminal a Commerce. Indeed some Years ago there were three Merchants at *Boston*, (neither of 'em of *English* Extraction nor Natives of the Place, and two of 'em very new Comers) who were detected in a private Trade with some of the *French Indians*; which the General Assembly of the Province resented so highly, it's not to suffer 'em to be try'd by the ordinary Courts of Justice, but sat themselves in Judicature, and after a full hearing of the Delinquents, found 'em guilty, and laid on 'em such heavy Fines, as they chose rather to lie in Prison than pay, till by Application here they got the Sentence revers'd.

But the Gentlemen that accuse the Colonies come to Particulars and alledge, That when the Troops arriv'd, there were no Provisions got together nor any thing in a readiness, though Colonel Nicholson was dispatch'd long before for that purpose. To which I answer it is

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true Col. *Nicholson* was sent away early, but lying Wind-bound two Months in the West, and meeting with a long Passage, he arriv'd but a Fortnight before the Fleet ; so that little could be done in so short a time. Especially if you consider that *Boston* is supply'd with Provision from the Neighbouring Colonies, and some time at least is requir'd to get it thence. To this I may add, that the constant Demands of the Garrison at *Annapolis Royal*, and the furnishing several of the Queen's Ships that had occasionally put in there from *Europe* and the *West-Indies* a little before had exhausted the Country. However all that could be done, was done. The Government seiz'd all Vessels outward and inward bound that had Provisions on board, and appointed several Persons to make diligent Search for all Species of Provisions that could be found in any part of the Country, and to secure 'em for the Service. Whilst at the same time the *Boston* Gentlemen came generously into an Agreement among themselves to live on their own Salt Meat in their Houses, lest there should not be sufficient fresh Provisions for the Forces during their Stay there. With this Care the Fleet and Army were well provided, and ready to sail in less than five Weeks. But they say *this was too late, and there was now no going up the River, and so the Expedition was lost.* Admitting this to be true, yet 'tis plain it

could not be help'd. But I must on the contrary with all Submission aver that *August* and *September* are two very good Months for the Navigation of that River. For first, every body does or may know that the Storeships from *France* which go there every Year, and are very large Ships always take that time, and I think this is one pretty good Argument. In the next place Sir *William Phips* in his Expedition did not enter the River till the 14th of *September*, and it was the beginning of the next Month before the Wind blew fair at East to carry him up.

Well, but when they were in the River, they were oblig'd to come away for fear the Colonies should not send 'em a further Supply, in which case the Fleet must have starv'd. I only wish for the Good of the Crown and the Plantations, that they had made the Experiment. For the Event proves that these Fears were groundless. The *Province Galley* sail'd from *Boston* the third of *September* for *Canada* with Provisions, and so did the *Feversham* Man of War with three Transports from *New-York* the 18th of the same Month; and (I'm told) that a Vessel with eleven hundred Barrels of Prize Pork was going to 'em from *Newfoundland* at the same time, so that they could not have wanted; besides the ten Weeks Provision they had on board would have kept 'em there longer than was necessary to have reduc'd the Place, and have brought 'em back to *Europe* or *Boston*. The

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The next Charge is, That *as soon as the Fleet arriv'd the People there debauch'd their Men from the Service, and conceal'd 'em in their Houses.* That Seamen and Soldiers will desert whenever they have Opportunity is no new thing, and that there should be found in all Countries some few ill People to encourage and harbour 'em, is as little strange. The Question therefore is, How the Assembly of the Province then sitting behav'd themselves on this Occasion. Why as soon as they were inform'd that such things were done, they immediately pass'd an Act wherein a special Court was erected to try all Offenders of this kind; and a Penalty of fifty Pounds or a Twelve-months Imprisonment without Bail or Mainprize enjoin'd for the Offence. And for the speedier Dispatch, the Sheriff was empower'd to return the Jury, (a thing never before done in that Province) and all Officers required to enter any Houses by Force where Soldiers or Sailors were suspected to be conceal'd. To impute a thing then to the Country in general, which they took these extraordinary Methods to prevent is not only untrue but highly disingenuous.

The last Accusation against *New-England* is, *That they provided the Fleet with ignorant Pilots.* In answer to which it is sufficient to say, that they were the ablest and most experienc'd Men the Country had, and having been often in the River of St. Lawrence

could not but know it particularly well. To what then, or to whom the Disaster that happen'd there is to be attributed I don't pretend to determine, but hope I have made it plain that the Government People of *New-England* are entirely innocent and have in every respect done their Duty.

I am sure the People there thought so, as appears by the Letters from thence, dated when the Fleet was ready to sail for *Canada*, since which we have receiv'd no Advices. The Governour of the *Massachusetts* writes to the Agent of that Colony at *London* thus: " The Fleet is now upon sailing, and the Expedition has proceeded well, we having in all things gone beyond the Quota her Majesty assign'd us. The Secretary of the Province thus: " The Expedition (of the last Importance to these Plantations) has been brought forward beyond what could have reasonably been expected, the Supplies demanded being so large. The Government have exerted their utmost Powers to encourage it with all manner of Intention and Application, and I hope the General and Admiral will so represent it in their Favour. Another Person of Note writes from *Boston* in these Words: " Never any People fell into any matter with greater Alacrity and Application than these Colonies did into this, nor made a braver Dispatch. They heartily and instantly comply'd with

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“ all her Majesty’s Directions, and perform’d
 “ even more than she demanded.

Methinks this Consciousness of their well-doing without Fear or Thought of being blam’d has the Face of Innocence, Guilt being ever timorous and suspicious. But I forbear any further Remarks, having already (as I flatter my self) given your Lordship full Satisfaction.

I can’t dismiss the Subject till I have express’d my Hopes that *Canada*, which we miss’d gaining in War, will be restor’d to us at the Peace now in Agitation. And that *Annapolis Royal*, which we have recover’d, will with the whole Country of *Nova Scotia* as far Eastward as the Island of *St. Paul* for ever remain to the Crown of *Great-Britain*. They originally belong’d to it *in Fact*, and do *of Right* now. All that Country on both Sides of the River of *St. Lawrence* was seiz’d for the Crown about the Close of the fifteenth Century by Sir *Sebastian Cabot*, Grand Pilot to *Henry* the Seventh, and by him sent to find out such Parts of *North America* as were left undiscover’d by *Columbus*. The *French* pretend indeed to a Discovery of it by *John Verrazan* a *Florentine* under *Francis* the First of *France*; but this was in 1606, which being of a later Date could give the *French* King no Right to it. King *James* the First therefore knowing his Title to be good did in 1621 make a Grant of this Country to Sir *William Alexander* (afterwards Earl

Earl of *Sterling*) who settled a Colony there
 by the Name of *Nova Scotia*, and held pos-
 session of it several Years. Yet upon the
 Marriage of King *Charles* the First with
 the Lady *Henrietta Maria*, it was by Order
 of the King given up to the *French*. In
 1627 and 28 we got it again, and the North-
 side of the River call'd *Canada* was given to
 Sir *David Kirk*, who was both Proprietor
 and Governour; and the South-side (call'd
 by the *French* *Accadie*) fell again into the
 Hands of Sir *William Alexander*. In 1632
 it was given away again; though the King
 (when he found the *French* had possess'd
 themselves of the whole Country) declar'd
 publickly that he had given away only the
 Forts, and not the Soil, and therefore attemp-
 ted to recover it again but fail'd. Besides
 the King of *France* oblig'd himself to pay in
 lieu of the Forts five thousand Pounds to Sir
David Kirk, which he never did, but his Fami-
 ly was ruin'd. *Cromwell* weighing the Premises
 sent Col. *Sedgwick* in 1654 and retook it, and
 when he made Peace with *France* the following
 Year, tho' their Ambassador made pressing In-
 stances for the Restitution of it, yet he would
 not part with it, insisting that it was the
 ancient Inheritance of the Crown of *Eng-
 land*, and did of Right belong to it. Where-
 upon Monsieur *St. Estienne* Son and Heir to
 Monsieur *Claude de la Tour* a *French* Refugee,
 who bought *Nova Scotia* of the Earl of *Ster-
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ling, came over into *England*, and making out his Title, had it deliver'd to him ; and then sold it to Sir *Thomas Temple*, who was Governour of it till the Restoration ; soon after which King *Charles* deliver'd it up again to the *French* and *Canada* with it, where they both rested to the unspeakable Loss and Detriment of the Crown and the Plantations, till Col. *Nicholson* lately recover'd the former.

From hence it's evident, that both *Canada* and *Nova Scotia* were the ancient Inheritance of this Crown. The only Question is, Whether the Kings of *England* had Power to alienate these Countries, which being incorporated into the Crown were Parts of the Common-wealth, and descended to them from their Ancestors ? The Civilians and all that have wrote of the Law of Nations establish it as a Rule, *Non alienandas esse Imperii partes*. They expressly say, *That a Prince can no more alienate any Part of his Dominion, than the People may renounce their Obedience*. Thus * *Baldwin, Molina, Bodin, Matthæus Parisiensis, Grotius* and *Puffendorf*, as may be seen in the Margin.

And

* *Dominium Rex remittere & abdicare non potest, quia ista esset ex propriatio, quæ a supremo Principe fieri non potest. Baldw. in prahud. feud. colum. 8. vertic. expedita. Molin. Tom. I. p. 1170. nu. 99. Prædia regalia & publica nullo modo abalienari possunt, ut sit in civitatibus firmamentum aliquod & veluti fundamentum quo publica res nitatur. Quamobrem hujus*

And for our own Laws, Sir Robert Cotton in his *Preface* to the Abridgment of the Rolls in the *Tower* observes, That our Parliaments have in all times been careful to resume Lands alien'd from the Crown, which they condemn'd as an undue Practice, and therefore reunited them. If then it was wrong to dispose of Lands that were the Patrimony of the Crown, how much more so must it be to give away the Subject's Property, and to alienate part of the Empire to a foreign Power? If the former were to be inviolable, then the latter *a fortiori* must be sacred and inalienable. If it be pleaded that these Countries came to the Crown by Acquisition, and therefore may be dispos'd of at Pleasure, I reply that they were not acquir'd by *Charles* the First and Second, but came to 'em both by Hereditary Descent; and further, that if Acquisition gives a Right of Alienation, then it is within the Prerogative to give or sell *Ireland* and all the Plantations to any Potentate

hujus regni Principes cum prædia publica privatorum fraudibus obfessa revocant, illud obtestantur se juratos ineunte imperio publica prædia nunquam distrahi passuros. Atque hæc quidem rebus sæpe judicatis confirmata fuere, nec tantum nostris, sed etiam Hispanorum, Anglorum, Polonorum, & Hungarorum legibus ac institutis. *Bod. de republica Edit. Francofurt. p. 1000. l. 6. c. 2. Vide Math. Paris. p. 306, 308. Grot. de Jure Belli & Pacis, l. 2. c. 5. integrum caput. Puff. de Lege Natur. & Gentium, l. 3. c. 5. Sir Robert Cotton's Pref. 1. R. 2. n. 48. 1. H. 4. n. 100. 6. H. 4. n. 29, 52. 1. H. 5. c. 9. 28. H. 6. n. 54. With many other Parliament-Rolls.*

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in *Europe*, which I believe no Lawyer in *Great-Britain* will give under his Hand for Law.

Our Title appears equal to both Sides of the River of *St. Lawrence*, that is, *Canada* on the North, and *Nova Scotia* or (as the *French* call it) *Accadie* on the South. But I must beg leave to say, that in Point of Interest the latter is of more Consequence to the Crown than the former. For when that is in the *French* Hands, it's a Bridle to the Eastern Parts of *New-England*, where the tall Pines grow, which are yearly brought home in the Mast-fleet; and indeed where there is such a vast Quantity of Naval Stores of all sorts, as is not to be found in any part of the World. I conceive therefore that seeing Naval Stores are growing scarce and valuable all over *Europe*, and the Strength and Glory of our Nation depends upon 'em, and yet we are at the Pleasure of the *Russ* and the *Swede* whether we shall have 'em or no, and that at their own excessive Prizes; surely we should take Care to secure what we have in *America* as an inestimable Treasure. Besides if we should leave this Country to the *French*, we shall be defeated of our Ends in turning 'em out of *Newfoundland*. For they'll find *here* as good a Fishery as they left *there*, and infinitely better Harbours, and consequently will still be able to bring their Fish to *Europe* and damp our Markets

as formerly ; and we shall have one fatal Dis-
 advantage more by the Bargain, in that we
 remove 'em from an Island to the Continent,
 where they have more room to spread and
 encrease to the Terror of her Majesty's Sub-
 jects. In one word then, if we give up this
 Place, our Naval Stores are gone, our Fishery
 is extremely hurt, and we lose the only Op-
 portunity which we may probably ever have
 to establish the Peace and Security of all the
 flourishing Colonies on the Continent ; which
 I hope her Majesty and her Ministry will in
 their Wisdom consider.

Thus, My LORD, I have answer'd the
 three Questions relating to the unhappy Ex-
 pedition to *Canada* ; which I've done as well
 in Obedience to your Lordship's Commands,
 as for other weighty Obligations that make
 it my Duty.

I conclude with assuring your Lordship,
 that I am with the highest Respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's Devoted

Humble Servant,

J. D.

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